

April 23, 1912

THREE BURNED TO DEATH

Fred Krahn, Wife and Child Perish in Awful Tragedy Caused by the Explosion of a Kerosene Can

4-23-1912
This community was shocked beyond expression upon learning last Saturday morning that the entire family of Fred Krahn, a young farmer out near the James river, had been in fire from an exploding kerosene can, from the effects of which the wife and child were dead, and the father not expected to live—the latter expiring during the forenoon hours.

Following the explosion the father, mother and daughter plunged into the watering trough to extinguish the flames of their clothing, then, the father carrying the blackened form of the little child, husband and wife ran to the home of Chas. Jaeschke, half a mile away, for help. Burned portions of their clothing marked a portion of their pathway as they sought refuge at their neighbor's.

Every stitch of clothing was burned from the poor woman, and she was in that condition while making night trip for aid.

The tragedy began in the handling of a brooder lamp just before retiring at night. Mr. Krahn had taken the burning lamp out to fill it and was in the act of doing so, when the explosion occurred. Mrs. Krahn and child were nearly prepared for bed, and Mr. Krahn was partly undressed, being barefooted when he walked to his neighbor's.

Chas. Robinson, employed by the Krahns, was also severely burned, and is at a hospital in Aberdeen, unable to make any statement regarding

the tragedy, owing to the severe injuries which he received. Exact details of how the explosion occurred will never be known.

Dr. Jones was called from Groton and physicians were also called from Aberdeen and Stratford. The woman's burns were largely about the body, her face and head escaping. Mr. Krahn was badly burned about the face and his feet were so badly burned that the skin sluffed off. But generally speaking the burns were not particularly deep on any of the victims.

Mr. Krahn was the son of Mr. and Mrs. Carl Krahn of Aberdeen and leaves his father and mother, three sisters and four brothers. He was 30 years old and had been married over four years. Mrs. Krahn was 22 years of age and was the daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Charles Rossow of Ferney. She leaves to mourn besides her parents, three sisters and five brothers. The little girl was three years old.

Mr. Krahn stood high in public esteem as a first-class citizen. He had been at Aberdeen on Friday, and had been appointed guardian of the property of Louis Schott, who was that day adjudged to be mentally unbalanced.

Three graves in Union Cemetery have been prepared to receive the bodies of these unfortunate victims, and funeral services will be conducted this afternoon at 2:30 at the Groton M. E. Church, an Aberdeen Lutheran minister officiating.